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# ~~INFORMATION REPORT~~

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COUNTRY Egypt

DATE DISTR. 24 February 1949

SUBJECT Communist Activities of the  
Pen Club in Alexandria

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1. The Pen Club was one of the cultural associations in Alexandria which was used as a center for communist propaganda. In 1947, when it was most active, its president was a certain Davies Valentis and its secretary, George Fargas. Most of the members were young Jews who were associated with the group, "Amis de la Culture." The Pen Club meetings were held at No. 80 sharia Fuad al-Awal, in the premises of the I.L.C.A.
2. Two active members of the Club were the following:
  - a. Joseph Morotchnik, a Russian Jew who was born in Alexandria in 1920. His address is No. 20 sharia École Suisse, Camp César, Alexandria. Morotchnik is a teacher. His father, also named Joseph, was born in Odessa in 1890; he is reported to have contacted Feodor Malakhov, co-director of the Soviet Commercial Mission in Alexandria. His mother, Ida, is an intellectual who used to hold group discussions at her home. Joseph Morotchnik (the son) was one of the principal speakers at these gatherings. He was known as a convinced Trotskyist and was very active in spreading communist propaganda among Jewish youth. He founded the club, "Jeunesse et Culture," which was a center of Communist activity, and was arrested by the Egyptian authorities in May 1948.
  - b. Alfred Zaki Cohen, an Egyptian Jew who was born in Alexandria in 1921. He is employed at the knitting mill, "Donneterie," No. 182 sharia Tanish, Alexandria. He is a member of "Les Amis de la Culture" and the "Cercle de la Jeunesse Juive." Cohen is an ardent Communist, who is closely associated with Joseph Morotchnik, and he is reported to be in charge of a Communist cell. He was arrested by the Egyptian authorities in May 1948.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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